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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,551	03/06/2000	Jozeph W. Triepels	PHN 17, 326	8962

24737 7590 08/12/2004

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
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EXAMINER

ABDULSELAM, ABBAS I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2674

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

24

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/519,551

Applicant(s)

TRIEPELS ET AL.

Examiner

Abbas I Abdulsalam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on 05/24/04, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. as set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobi et al. (USPN 5868582).

Regarding claim 1, Jacobi et al teach a contact device for electrically connecting a printed circuit board (7) with a flat panel (4) which itself may be in the form of another printed circuit board (7) or, in the form of a liquid crystal display (LCD), through a, connector module (1) of

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approximately U-shaped cross-section holding the edge (5) of the panel (4) between the legs of the U. Jacobi et al teach that the panel has a plurality of contact pads on its edge, and the upper leg (2) has openings (11) through which the linearly arrayed contact elements (6) extend into the area of the contact pads on the LCD panel. See col. 2, lines 34-54. Jacobi et al teach allowing the LCD panel to be at an angle of several degrees to the printed circuit board as well as improving the conductivity for electrical signals (col. 2, lines 53-56). Jacobi does not specifically teach the use of a laminar substrate with opposite sides. However, as mentioned above, Jacobi does teach a connector module (1) of approximately U-shaped cross-section holding the edge (5) of the panel (4) between the legs of the U.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize Jacobi's U-shaped connector module for the purpose of obtaining electrical connection. One would have been motivated in view of the suggestion that the U-shaped connection module is functionally equivalent to the desired "laminar substrate with opposite sides".

In addition, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that contact at the edges of the display panel excludes the pixels and hence meets the desired feature of "proximate to the pixels".

3. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobi et al. in view of Okamoto et al. (USPN 6563554).

Jacobi has been discusses above. However, Jacobi does not teach two substrates and an electro-optical material between the two substrates. Okamoto et al on the other hand teach the

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liquid crystal layer (1) sandwiched by the two substrates such that the one of the optical design of the liquid crystal layer (1) includes the one that can attain electro-optical characteristics. See col. 3, 19-25

Therefor, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jacobi's display system to incorporate Okamoto's use of two substrates between which the liquid crystal layer is sandwiched. One would have been motivated in view of the suggestion that the use of substrates with the liquid crystal layer in between meet the desired missing feature, namely two substrates and an electro-optical material between the two substrates. The use of liquid crystal layer helps function an LCD device as taught by Okamoto.

Regarding claim 10, Jacobi teaches the use of a liquid crystal display or other flat panel (4). See the abstract. Okamoto teaches the use of EL (Electroluminescence) elements. See col. 1, line 21.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 recites the limitation "said foil" in their dependence on independent claim 1. Dependent claim 5 also recites the limitation "said foil". Dependent claims 3 and 7 depend on claims 2 and 4 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim 1. The word foil is not mentioned in claim 1, and hence proper correction is required.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following arts are cited for further reference.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,706,069 to Hermens

U.S. Pat No. 4,629,942 to Horio et al.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Abbas Abdulsalam** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-8591**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard Hjerpe**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4709**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

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Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology center 2600 customer Service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Abbas Abdulsalam

Examiner

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August 4, 2004


XIAO WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER